

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, June 16, 2003

Present: Corey, Jessen, Johnson, Mehigh, Sanderson, Wagner.

Absent: Runyan (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Dan Flynn; Janet Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Shirley Sanderson; Helen Granger, The Independent; Gary Granger; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Officer Kim Williams, Police Department; Odyssey of the Mind Students; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the regular meeting minutes dated June 2, 2003 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of two proclamations after the first Call to Audience, Item No. 6) Discussion of City Dump, Item No. 7) Discussion of July 7, 2003 Council Meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Jessen, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Mark Hetfield stated he would like to discuss the administrative manual. Mayor Corey advised he would prefer to discuss this item when council gets to the agenda item.

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION: The Corunna High School Odyssey of the Mind Team gave a brief performance of their world championship presentation for the city council and audience. Mayor Corey presented a proclamation to the Corunna High School Odyssey of the Mind Team

for their accomplishment in becoming world champions at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. A representative from State Representative Julian's office also presented the Corunna High School Odyssey of the Mind Team with a proclamation for their accomplishments.

**CONSIDER YEAR END 2002/2003 BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Mr. Sawyer explained the proposed budget amendments. Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the following resolution amending the 2002/2003 budget with the addition of removing \$5,000 from public works and adding \$5,000 to city services:

**RESOLUTION 06-16-03-01**  
**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2002/2003 BUDGET**

**WHEREAS,** The City Council of the City of Corunna desires to Amend the 2002/2003 Budget to Alter the Original Appropriation and Adjust Departmental Expenditures within the Altered General Fund Appropriation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the budget for the City fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002 after recommendation by the City Manager be amended by the City Council as described as follows:

<b><u>Fund. #</u></b>	<b><u>Fund. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
101	General Fund	\$1,665,631	\$1,835,631

**General Fund Expenditures:**

<b><u>Dept. #</u></b>	<b><u>Dept. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
101	City Council	\$52,710	\$26,710
203	Internal Services	\$68,175	\$75,675
215	City Clerk	\$81,372	\$83,872
265	Municipal Building	\$55,278	\$57,778
301	Police	\$419,592	\$409,592
441	Public Works	\$271,563	\$256,563
460	Historical Commission	\$8,968	\$14,468
698	Summer Rec Baseball/Softball	\$15,761	\$18,261
750	City Services	\$154,239	\$349,239
955	Retiree's Benefits	\$31,907	\$36,907

**BE IT,** the same is hereby adopted, and the amount therein provided as recommended; appropriations are hereby appropriated according to the departmental totals.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** to amend the following fund budgets:

<b><u>Fund. #</u></b>	<b><u>Fund. Name</u></b>	<b><u>FROM:</u></b>	<b><u>TO:</u></b>
207	Municipal Building Fund	\$0	\$220,000
208	Parks Improvement	\$30,000	\$147,728
471	Library Building Fund	\$1,500	\$45,000
475	Library Technology Fund	\$1,200	\$10,200
517	King/Kingsley/McArthur Fund	\$0	\$2,500

530	Streetscape Construction Fund	\$2,500	\$87,500
590	Waste Water Collection	\$489,000	\$499,000
591	Water Fund	\$453,356	\$473,356

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2003 ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL: Mr. Hetfield stated he was under the impression that the long-term employees were going to be grandfathered and it looked like this was not the case. He further stated he would like to see a two-tier process where the benefits for long-term employees would be grandfathered in. Mayor Corey asked what benefits he was specifically talking about. Mr. Hetfield advised he was more concerned about the retirement benefits. Someone who has spent his entire career here and expects to retire with the benefits he currently has finds out during the last couple of years that it does not work that way. Councilperson Sanderson stated this is called hard times. He further stated the city is already charging people who die more money to put them in the ground but the city is going to give more money away, which he does not understand. Councilperson Johnson stated she agreed with Mr. Hetfield. The employees who have given 20 or more years should get something in return. She further stated the city saw the hard times coming and should have planned for it. She also stated someone with 20 years in one area is rare to find. Councilperson Sanderson asked if the city would still be a city if the city was to go broke in a year. Mr. Sawyer advised the state would come in and take over, but he did not know what the state would do. Councilperson Sanderson stated he worked 26 ½ years in a factory and this factory sold out to another company and he received nothing for retirement. People better start preparing for retirement. Councilperson Mehigh asked Mr. Sawyer to give a quick synopsis on the two-tier process. Mr. Sawyer advised there are two different categories. One category deals with existing active employees and their benefits and the other category involves retirement benefits. He further advised these are both difficult issues. There are people, who have worked for 20 or more years and are within four or five years from retiring, that have certain expectations as they get close to retirement. He also advised health insurance rates are increasing 10 to 15 percent per year, but this is not the employees' fault. It is the health industry's fault and is a national crisis and dilemma. Mr. Sawyer stated the cost of technology is staggering, but 50 percent of the health insurance costs are for prescriptions because the federal government refuses to put any kind of restrictions on the prescription industry. He further stated he wished there was a solution that everybody would be happy with but he does not know what to do. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Hetfield if he was talking about the health insurance benefit change. Mr. Hetfield advised correct. Mayor Corey stated he agreed with Mr. Sawyer that the health insurance industry is broken and will crash. If the health insurance industry crashes and gets restructured, then this item could be revisited at any time. Mr. Sawyer stated the health insurance proposal is the worse case proposal, but is not a consolation for employees who are trying to figure out what to budget for retirement. He further stated if the council only sees an eight percent increase in health insurance costs over the next four years, then it would be unrealistic for the city council not to readdress the insurance premium benchmark when interest rates and revenue sharing turns around. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Hetfield if he had any other questions. Mr. Hetfield advised he did not know what else could be said. Mayor Corey stated the administrative manual document was recommended by the

labor committee and asked Mr. Hetfield if he had any alternative proposals that he would like to put to the council. Mr. Hetfield advised no. Councilperson Mehigh stated this was a very, very tough call. When he retired from General Motors, he walked away with the assumption that General Motors would pay for his Blue Cross and prescriptions, but now, he is paying 50 percent of his Blue Cross and a minimum of \$25 for a 30 day prescription. He further stated it has been very tough to take benefits away from anyone because employees do anticipate what they are going to have when they retire. Mr. Hetfield stated the amount of money the employees and retirees will have to pay for Blue Cross is a big hit. He further stated he would like to see some other formulas and percentages worked out. Wagner moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the Corunna Administrative Manual as presented. Councilperson Mehigh stated the city council has the right to change the health insurance down the road if council sees that the insurance costs have been cut back or if there is another plan that would give the city a better rate. Mr. Sawyer advised he was already looking at cheaper insurance plan options and has yet to hear that the double-digit increases will end soon. He further advised under the administrative rules in place, the city council has given him a certain degree of authority to make changes without coming to the council and when it is appropriate he will do so. He also advised if the administrative staff is not treated fairly, he will intervene, but council will always have the ability to override him. Mayor Corey stated it is stressing to be on both sides of the table. Mr. Sawyer stated the employees did not anticipate certain changes, but the taxpayers did not anticipate double-digit increases either. Councilperson Jessen stated he agreed that changes should be made, but he would rather see a two-tier system in place now because he does not agree that a 20 or 26-year employee should have things taken away. Councilperson Johnson stated the city council has the right to agree or disagree with each other. Councilperson Sanderson stated he did not know why people today do not realize that the country has changed over the last few years or why people do not plan ahead. A person should look ahead and plan for this stuff. He further stated a person has to be an adult, has to grow up and be able to understand what is going on. He asked if the city should stop working on the sewer lines so it can pay retirement to people because that is where the city is going. He also stated it is tough luck if somebody cannot buy that new Cadillac or new boat when the person retires. Councilperson Jessen asked when the retirement medical benefits were last changed. Councilperson Mehigh advised never. Mayor Corey stated that is the point. Until something like this happens, a person is planning on what the person has now and not less or more.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: Jessen, Johnson.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHIP SEAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SHIAWASSEE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION FOR S. SHIAWASSEE FROM THE RAILROAD TRACKS TO CITY LIMIT: Sanderson moved, Mehigh seconded to approve the Chip Seal Agreement for S. Shiawassee Street in the approximate amount plus or minus of \$900 with the Shiawassee County Road Commission.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CONTRACT WITH ROB KEHOE FOR CITY BUILDING INSPECTOR: Johnson

moved, Wagner seconded to approve the City Building Inspector Contract with Rob Kehoe as presented with the insertion of “and other such directives from the city manager” at the end of the first sentence. Mr. Sawyer advised Mr. Kehoe is an appointed member of the planning commission and it is Mr. Kehoe’s intent that he would attend planning commission meetings when there is any kind of site plan review issue on the agenda. Mr. Sawyer further advised he informed Mr. Kehoe if there is a quorum issue he would demand Mr. Kehoe’s attendance to make sure there is a quorum and Mr. Kehoe is agreeable.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Jessen, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER ELECTRICAL/MECHANICAL/PLUMBING INSPECTOR CONTRACTS: Mayor

Corey stated during the pre-council meeting, there was an error pointed out under the electrical inspector contract. Mr. Sawyer advised under Statement of Work, the words plumbing and mechanical inspections should be replaced with electrical inspections and the verbiage “and other such directives from the city manager” should be inserted at the end of the first sentence in the electrical and mechanical/plumbing contracts. Wagner moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector Contract and Electrical Inspector Contract as presented with a correction to the electrical inspector contract under the Statement of Work, the words plumbing and mechanical inspections should be replaced with electrical inspections and with the insertion of “and other such directives from the city manager” at the end of the first sentence in both contracts.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Jessen, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION OF CITY DUMP: Councilperson Sanderson stated when he went down to the city

dump today, there were two people dumping trash down there. He approached the two people to ask them if they were city residents and they both advised they were. The second person complained that the dump hours were unfair to the workingman because he had to take a day off work to trim his trees. Councilperson Sanderson further stated the dump is nearly full. Mr. Sawyer advised the city would leave the dump open 24 hours seven days a week if the city did not have people putting trash down there and township residents using the facility.

Councilperson Sanderson stated that is what he told the person. The second resident suggested picking up brush and grass clippings one day a week. Mr. Sawyer advised the city does pick up brush and grass clippings for a fee, which is part of the ordinance. Councilperson Sanderson stated the city should keep the gate locked and make people stop at the city barn to get a key to the gate by showing proof that the people live in Corunna before using the dump. He understands two city residents found 13 bags of raw garbage down there. Councilperson Sanderson further stated the city spent \$12,000 last year to clean up the dump and the city needs to draw the line on the dump somewhere and do it quick. Mayor Corey advised the city does not always have someone at the city barn. Councilperson Sanderson suggested having

people stop at city hall to get the key. Mr. Sawyer asked what he should stop doing in order to run down to the dump and open the gate. Councilperson Sanderson suggested closing down the city dump altogether. Mr. Sawyer advised the city might have to do that in the next year with the new regulations coming in. Councilperson Sanderson suggested letting everybody burn their bush in their back yard. Mayor Corey advised city residents have that option now. Councilperson Mehig stated there has to be a simpler way because half of the trash that is in the city dump belongs to non-residents. He further stated he received a call from Keith Johnson who informed about the open forum letter he was sending to the newspaper. Mr. Johnson had some words with people at the city dump who were not city residents. Councilperson Mehig further stated he informed Mr. Johnson if illegal dumping continues the city will be forced to close the dump. Councilperson Mehig suggested setting out a box for people to put their name and address in. He asked Chief Hetfield if people have the right to turn in a license plate number and if there was an ordinance that could be addressed. Chief Hetfield advised the city has a littering ordinance that could be used. Mayor Corey asked if anyone had ever been issued a ticket. Chief Hetfield advised yes. Mayor Corey asked if it would be reasonable to assume if the city goes through someone's garbage and finds a name that the person would be ticketed. Chief Hetfield advised the city has done that. Mayor Corey stated the city has a good size fine and asked if it would be worth something to take a person to court in addition to making the person remove their trash or just tell the person to remove their trash. Chief Hetfield advised it is easier to tell the person to remove their garbage. Councilperson Sanderson asked if a councilperson has the right to question someone. Chief Hetfield advised yes, but there is no way to force the issue if the person refuses to talk. Councilperson Jessen stated he has heard people state they would like to see the city dump opened later because they work during the day and cannot make it down there before the dump is locked. Mr. Sawyer advised the dump is open the first weekend each month. He further advised non-residents are not the only ones illegally dumping trash down there; there are some city residents who illegally dump trash too. He further advised there are four solutions: close the dump, only allow city employees to put brush or grass clippings in the dump, man the dump when it is open, which the city does not have the funds for or allow a free for all that will require the city to pay \$20,000 per year to keep the area clean. Councilperson Sanderson suggested getting the school crossing guard to man the gate. Mayor Corey advised his wages come from a different area. Councilperson Sanderson stated the city could take some money out of some of the other luxuries the city has. Councilperson Mehig advised the city might get enough volunteers to man the dump.

DISCUSSION OF JULY 7, 2003 COUNCIL MEETING: Mayor Corey advised this item was put on the agenda in order to see if there would be a quorum because three councilpersons will not be here. He asked if a motion was needed to cancel the meeting. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to cancel the July 7, 2003 regular council meeting and to have the city manager notify the city council if a special meeting is needed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Jessen, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Scott Johnson stated the city should change the name of the dump by removing the word dump. He suggested renaming the area to an agricultural drop off or brush yard. Mayor Corey advised that was a good idea and might help. Mr. Johnson further stated if the city does close the area, there will be citizens burning brush and leaves on the burning days but people will also put garbage underneath the brush they are burning. Mayor Corey asked if it was illegal to burn garbage. Mr. Sawyer advised absolutely. That is why 90 percent of Michigan cities do not allow burning.

Judy Horton thanked Mr. Sawyer and the council for the check to the historical commission. She asked when the check would be available. Mr. Sawyer advised he thought the check was in his box. Ms. Horton advised she would deposit the check and have a check written to the city tomorrow night. She further advised the Tin Shop was moved to the historical village for nothing and the only needs lights for the windows. The Tin Shop came fully stocked with everything that goes in a Tin Shop. She also advised she is looking for someone who knows how to clean tinsmith tools.

Mr. Sawyer asked Mayor Corey if he would be able to do the Channel 3 recording on July 8. Mayor Corey advised yes. Mr. Sawyer advised he has the tape of Joe DeCaire's tape recording if anyone wants to watch it. Mayor Corey advised Mr. DeCaire served Corunna well.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson asked Mayor Corey if he had contacted Tom Wazny. Mayor Corey advised he had not written his letter yet. He further advised he would make sure the council gets a copy of his letter. Councilperson Sanderson advised the vandalism at the park has slowed down and asked Chief Hetfield if he had increased patrols in the park after dark. Chief Hetfield advised he has tried to get his officers down to the park as often as he can. He further advised the bike patrol officer has taken a full-time job at the sheriff department so his department is down to one part-time officer until he can get some more officers hired.

Councilperson Johnson stated she did not know if anyone had noticed Kim Williams' picture in the Best of the Best paper, which she thought was very nice. Mayor Corey asked where she saw the picture. Councilperson Johnson advised the Best of the Best paper was in Sunday's Argus Press. Councilperson Sanderson suggested presenting Kim Williams' with a proclamation. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Sawyer to have Linda LeCureux do a proclamation for Kim Williams. Mr. Sawyer advised Ms. LeCureux loves doing proclamations.

Mayor Corey stated the next Committee of the Whole meeting is next Monday. He hopes to have the council shirts by then. He reminded council about walking in the Fourth of July Parade.

ADJOURN: Jessen moved, Wagner seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehig, Jessen.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:44 p.m.

---

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

---

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK